

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 10 March 2011

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center auditorium. There were 61 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** T. Bailey, B. Barton, J. Berkow, V. Cooley, P. Farber, R. MacDonald, M.L. Light, K. McDonnell, M. Mickus, J. Oh, D. Pence, J. Petrovic, C. Pietras, A. Rea, D. Swoboda. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Nicholas Andreadis, Dean, Lee Honors College; Alexander Enyedi, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Bassam Harik, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel; Carol Hustoles, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; W. Jensen, Sociology; Greg Lozeau and Arnold Taylor, Office of Information Technology; Tierra Marshall, Office of Faculty Development and student, Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) Leadership Program; Heather McGee, Psychology; Dave Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Joe Reish, Dean, University Libraries; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Anthony Vizzini, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Earlie Washington, Dean, College of Health and Human Services.

Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of Minutes

The 3 February 2011 minutes were approved as published.

*Faculty Senate Executive Board Report – Peter Krawutschke,
Faculty Senate President*

Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke reported on the following:

- The Lee Honors College has proposed a faculty fellow designation to clarify the expectations of faculty who teach honors courses and supervise senior honor theses. That proposal was approved by the Senate's Undergraduate Studies Council and endorsed by the Senate Executive Board. Nick Andreadis, Dean of the Lee Honors College, commented on this designation, thanking the Senate's USC and Board for their input and support. This designation will be open by nomination by peers, and part time faculty will be allowed to hold an associate fellow designation.
- The General Election for departmental senators has concluded. Those elected have been notified and will begin their terms when introduced at the May meeting.
- The Presidential Scholars Convocation will be held on March 24 to honor the 45 undergraduate students selected as this year's scholars.

- During discussion of differential tuition at the last meeting, discussion was ended in order to get to the other items on the agenda. Since the Board of Trustees has now approved differential tuition for the colleges of business and fine arts, it will not appear as an agenda item at this time. However, this topic may be coming up with regard to other colleges and may appear on the Senate's agenda again in the future.
- The recent passing of Joe Ellin, professor emeritus of philosophy, was acknowledged. Ellin dedicated many years of service, not only to the University, but also to the Senate, most notably as a Faculty Senator for 26 years. Ellin also served as Senate vice president, as an Executive Board director and on numerous other Senate councils.

Remarks – John Dunn, WMU President

President Dunn commented on the following:

- He has been away from campus, most recently:
 - In Naples and Sarasota, Florida, staying connected with alumni and donors. WMU has the 4th highest endowment in Michigan, not far behind Wayne State University.
 - In New York City, for an alumni reception and the performance of Gold Company II at the Lincoln Center.
 - In Washington, D.C., at a meeting of the American Public and Land Grant Universities, where higher education was discussed as the pathway to enhancing and increasing the economy.
 - In Lansing for a meeting of the President's Council on State Universities of Michigan with the state budget director.
- Presenting a 2011/12 General Fund Budget Update, the president discussed the governor's proposed budget and its impact on WMU:
 - WMU could face a 20.8% budget reduction, which is nearly 23 million dollars; or, if tuition is held to an increase of 7.1%, the impact would be a 15% budget reduction.
 - The administration is discussing possible strategies to balance the budget.
 - The university will work collectively to address the budget reduction, and he sees the Faculty Senate as a critical body to engage in input.
 - In response to an inquiry as to whether WMU would consider becoming a private university, President Dunn indicated that a huge endowment would be needed to replace current funding.
 - Senator Malcolm commented that WMU should take this as a challenge to address budget problems. President Dunn acknowledged there is talent within the university that could provide input.

Remarks – Tim Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Greene commented on the following:

- Work on the University strategic plan continues. There have been nine public forums and online surveys. The committee is writing a draft for review by the public, which is anticipated to be ready in four to six weeks.

- 700 Kalamazoo Public Schools 6th graders are expected to visit the campus over the next three weeks.
- Faculty were reminded that textbook orders are due in the bookstore before class registration begins each semester. This is a federal regulation and is tied to the university's accreditation.
- The search for a registrar did not produce a robust pool in the first round. Input was received from the Senate Executive Board on the process. The search will continue.
- Freshman applications received for fall 2011 are about the same as last year; however the number of transfer applications has increased.
- Yield rate and retention are critical. The number one reason that current or potential students come to or remain at the university is the relationship they establish with faculty members.
- He will be out of town for the 7 April Senate meeting.
- In response to an inquiry regarding current faculty searches in light of the proposed reductions in state appropriations, the provost plans to sit down with deans and review the status of those searches underway.

ACTION ITEMS

2nd Reading of Bylaw Amendment and Vote to Change Research Policies Council Membership – William Rantz, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

The first reading of a Bylaw amendment to change the membership of the Research Policies Council took place at the 3 February Senate meeting. Vice President Rantz moved, supported by Senator Asefa, to increase the size of the Research Policies Council by one member with the addition of the chair of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Committee as an ex officio member. Motion carried.

Article VI, Sec. 1.

The Research Policies Council shall be composed of at least ~~eighteen~~ **nineteen** members including the vice president for research, the dean of the Graduate College, the provost, the vice president for business and finance, eleven faculty members elected by the Senate (three from Arts and Sciences - with representation from each division suggested, one from each of the other colleges, one from unaffiliated units, and one at large), the Faculty Senate president or executive board designee as an ex officio member, **the chair of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Committee as an ex officio member**, and two graduate students selected by the Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faculty Responsibilities for Data Security – James Gilchrist, Vice Provost for Academic Operations and Chief Information Officer

Vice Provost Gilchrist informed the Senate of a situation that occurred in January in an academic department affecting information security of data stored on a portable hard drive. Loss of that hard drive resulted in hiring outside expertise, offering identity theft insurance to those whose information was involved, and several hundred hours of work by the Office of Information Technology. He stressed the

importance of securing personal information such as social security numbers and WINs on a secured drive and using encryption on laptops to protect faculty, staff, and students.

Graduate Studies Council's Report on the Graduate College – Louann Bierlein Palmer, Chair, Graduate Studies Council

Bierlein Palmer reported on a charge from the Senate Executive Board to review and make recommendations in reference to the report from the provost's Graduate College Review Committee. The GSC took an overall view of the report from a philosophical approach. The GSC affirmed that graduate education distinguishes WMU from other state universities which are undergraduate-intensive and it supports strengthening the Graduate College with resources to enhance and streamline graduate policy implementation, data collection, and student support.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Senator Huang addressed a concern regarding WMU's independent contractor agreement and specifically the indemnity clause. Carol Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel, responded that the wording of the agreement is for the protection of the university and the department, and noted that WMU is not responsible for costs incurred by a contractor who does not sign the form as written.

Joe Reish, dean, University Libraries, expressed appreciation for the university's support for this year's United Way fund drive. WMU's goal was exceeded by 5%.

Senator Bradburn inquired about a situation which occurred in her department regarding a student suspended for disruptive behavior. The student later enrolled in a course in that department without the knowledge of the chair or faculty. She asked whether there was a policy in place that would provide notification to the department in such a case. This concern will be investigated and reported on at the next Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 7 April, in the Fetzer Center.

Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport
Faculty Senate Office